

Doc Code: M865 or FAIREQ.INTV

PTOL-413A (08-10)

Approved for use through 07/31/2012. CMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/593,211

First Named Applicant: Ange LUPPI

Examiner: MAYO_PINNOCK, T.

Art Unit: 3671

Status of Application: Pending

Tentative Participants:

(1) Emxr. Tara Mayo-Pinnock

(2) David J. Torrente

(3)

(4)

Proposed Date of Interview: Wed, 12 Jan 2011

Proposed Time: 10:30 (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☐ Telephonic(2) ☐ Personal(3) ☐ Video ConferenceExhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES☐ NO

If yes, provide brief description:

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) Rej.	1-7, 15-16	Maloberti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Continuation Sheet Attached☒ Proposed Amendment or Arguments Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented: Maloberti does not teach or suggest inducing elongation in the subsea floor flow line; permitting displacement in a direction of elongation while prohibiting displacement in an opposite direction; inter alia.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on

NOTE: This form should be completed and filed by applicant in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01). If this form is signed by a registered practitioner not of record, the Office will accept this as an indication that he or she is authorized to conduct an interview on behalf of the principal (37 CFR 1.32(a)(3)) pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34. This is not a power of attorney to any above named practitioner. See the Instruction Sheet for this form, which is incorporated by reference. By signing this form, applicant or practitioner is certifying that he or she has read the Instruction Sheet. After the interview is conducted, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible. This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview.



Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature

David J. Torrente

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

49,099

Registration Number, if applicable

Examiner/SPE Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 24 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for starting up a flowline suitable for conveying hydrocarbons, said flowline being extended over the seabed from a wellhead and terminating at a joint end, said joint end being suitable for connection to a subsea riser, said method comprising:
a first stage of inducing elongation of said flowline; and
a second stage of fixing said joint end with respect to said seabed to maintain said flowline in its elongated position.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising permitting displacement of said joint end in a direction of elongation of said flowline and prohibiting displacement of said joint end in an opposite direction.
3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising guiding said joint end in translation during elongation of said flowline.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a preliminary stage before said first stage, comprising laying, said flowline on said seabed and connecting said subsea riser to said flowline.
5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said subsea riser is connected to said joint end during said preliminary stage.
6. (Currently Amended) A system for starting up a flowline suitable for conveying hydrocarbons, the system comprising:

said ~~a~~ flowline ~~extends~~ extended over a seabed from a wellhead and ~~terminates~~ terminated at a joint end of said flowline, said joint end being suitable for connection to a subsea riser, and said flowline being ~~able~~ operable to stretch;

a locking system for fixing said joint end with respect to said seabed for maintaining said flowline in said ~~a~~ stretched position after said flowline has been stretched.

7. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said locking system includes a unidirectional arresting device operable to allow displacement of said joint end in a direction of elongation of said flowline and to prohibit displacement of said joint end in an opposite direction.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The system as claimed in claim 7,~~ A system for starting up a flowline suitable for conveying hydrocarbons, the system comprising:

a flowline extended over a seabed from a wellhead and terminating at a joint end of said flowline, said joint end being suitable for connection to a subsea riser, and said flowline being operable to stretch;

a locking system for fixing said joint end with respect to said seabed for maintaining said flowline in a stretched position after said flowline has been stretched, said locking system including a unidirectional arresting device operable to allow displacement of said joint end in a direction of elongation of said flowline and to prohibit displacement of said joint end in an opposite direction;

further comprising a guidance system including a movable trolley, said joint end is being connectable to said trolley[[]]; and

a slide device on which said movable trolley is slidable in said direction of elongation of said flowline.

9. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said slide device comprises a base anchored in said seabed, and said rail is fixed to said base.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said unidirectional arresting device comprises a rack, mounted in the direction of said rail, and a ratchet on said trolley[, and]] engageable in said rack for allowing displacement of said trolley as said flowline is stretched and for prohibiting return displacement of said trolley.

11. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said trolley comprises a reception device operable for receiving said joint end of said flow line.

12. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a subsea riser having a free end; said trolley comprises a second reception device operable for receiving a free end of said subsea riser for enabling interconnecting said joint end of said flow line and said free end of said subsea riser.

13. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a subsea riser having a free end; said trolley comprises a reception device operable for receiving said free end of said subsea riser for interconnecting said joint end of said flow line and said free end of said subsea riser.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said slide device comprises a rail extending in said direction of elongation along which said trolley is slidable.

15. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a subsea riser having a free end; said subsea riser is extended in a catenary.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising extending said riser in a catenary.